

Serial No. 10/016,725

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 3-13 and 21-31 will remain in this application. The above amendments are in response to recent communication with Examiner Manunath Rao, Ph.D. regarding the above-referenced case. Applicants have amended Figure 1 to correct the numbering on the left hand column as noted by the Examiner. Claims 1, 2, and 14-20 have been canceled without prejudice, and Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the subject matter of such claims in a continuation/divisional application. Claims 3-4 and new claims 21-22 now recite, as suggested by Examiner Rao, the terms "isolated polynucleotide," "nucleotide sequence," and "nucleotide position." Also as suggested by the Examiner, claims 3 and 21 recite "nucleotide position 1 to about nucleotide position 3958 of SEQ ID NO:15," which corresponds to "the sequence selected from about 145 to about 4152 in the sequence listing in original Figure 1" and claims 4 and 22 recite "nucleotide position 1 to about nucleotide position 3910 of SEQ ID NO:15," which corresponds to "the sequence selected from about 193 to about 4152 in the sequence listing in original Figure 1." Support for the amendments to the claims can be found throughout the specification, including page 9, lines 8-31 of the specification. Accordingly, no issues of new matter are believed to be raised by the above amendments. Applicants will submit formal drawings reflecting the above amendments to Figure 1 upon approval by the Examiner.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: July 24, 2003